

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Previously Amended) A computer switching system comprising:
a module; and
a switch operable to communicatively couple a plurality of devices, wherein the switch is operable to receive the module, and wherein the switch comprises a switching fabric;
wherein the module comprises one or more module routing components operable to communicatively couple the devices when the module is received by the switch, and wherein the module comprises at least a portion of the switching fabric.
2. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 1, wherein the switch further comprises one or more intermediate routing components operable to communicatively couple with the module routing components when the module is received by the switch.
3. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the module routing components are the same type as the intermediate routing components.
4. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the intermediate routing components and module routing components are ASIC-based routing components.
5. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 2, wherein the number of module routing components is equal to half the number of intermediate routing components.

6. (Previously Amended) The switching system of claim 1, wherein the switch is operable to receive a plurality of modules.

7-18. (Canceled).

19. (Previously Amended) A method for upgrading the bisectional bandwidth of a network comprising a plurality of devices, comprising the steps of:

providing a network switch operable to communicatively couple the devices attached to the network, wherein the network switch comprises a module interface operable to receive a module and wherein the switch comprises a switching fabric;

providing a module comprising one or more module routing components operable to communicatively couple the devices when the module is received by the network switch, wherein the module comprises at least a portion of the switching fabric; and

receiving the module.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the network switch further comprises one or more intermediate routing components operable to communicatively couple with the module routing components when the module is received by the network switch.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the module routing components are the same type as the intermediate routing components.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the intermediate routing components and module routing components are ASIC-based routing components.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the number of module routing components is equal to half the number of intermediate routing components.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the network switch is operable to receive a plurality of modules.